

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)  
Programs to Strengthen Marriages and Families:

## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

### PURPOSE:

This program helps integrate marriage and family enrichment services of the Catholic Church in America into its services for refugees and refugee families, and in so doing assists in the overall mission of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Seventeen locations have been identified for this program. Website development for information sharing, material sharing, and assistance in programmatic issues of implementation and management with USCCB sites has also been implemented. Preliminary work included conferences on human trafficking, family wellness and Power of Two training, and training for individuals from all program communities and cities.

In Nashville, TN, a Family Wellness program features a full time coordinator working with refugee youth and adult services, community wide workshops, outreach/recruitment programs and after-school programs integrating parents and youth.

In St. Paul, MN, a Family Wellness program focuses on the community of refugees from Somalia, as well as Hmong and Hispanic refugee communities. The program features network expansion, development of coalition efforts within the refugee and larger community efforts, and University integration into the research evaluation.

In Allentown, PA, the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) and Family Wellness programs feature a full time coordinator, and a focus on strengthening projects identified by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Service to the Vietnamese community includes coalition collaborations, new training in the Family Wellness and efforts to overcome challenges in capturing the PREP model. This program also features outreach to Boat People.

In Phoenix, AZ, this program serves refugee youth in schools, youth in refugee community serve centers and at the Lost Boys Center. This program

also serves young women in providing education outreach and information in preparation of marriage and the difference between generational perspectives and cultural differences. Funding has also been accessed to provide cross service training with social service agency in order to further develop relationships among agencies.

In Hartford, CT, a Family Wellness program is provided to the African refugee community. Local communities and culturally appropriate parishes are identified for training to serve new arrival populations.

In Portland, OR, Family Wellness and Power of Two programs feature a full time coordinator from the African refugee parish community. This program is implemented through broad based community outreach, and also serves new arrival Hmong & Somalia Bantu populations.

In Grand Rapids, MI, a Family Wellness program features collaboration with state funded programs integrating refugee family component with overarching social services perspectives. This program introduces healthy marriage curriculum to refugee communities.

In Chicago, IL, a Family Wellness program features a full time coordinator funded through the Catholic Family Life Office. The program also features a Chicagoland Marriage website with a large component of refugee programs, and outreach to new American communities.

In Cleveland, OH, a Family Wellness program involves collaboration with community-wide initiatives working with diverse refugee populations. This program incorporates refugees into the larger community and brings the larger community into a national perspective.

In Indianapolis, IN, this program features integration of the Power of Two model into the asylum case management system, and includes workshops, and outreach at community events.

In St. Louis, MO, a PAIRS program provides refugee integration into larger community wide healthy marriage community initiative, and features outreach to Boat People.

In Dallas, TX, a Power of Two model program features workshops and networking for strengthened interaction with the larger community wide coalitions.

In Houston, TX, a Power of Two model program features a full time coordinator who organizes collaboration with a community-wide coalition and the diocesan Family Life Office. Power of Two training is also provided.

In Oakland, CA, Power of Two training is provided for counselors to utilize the program with families, teens and couples. The program features workshops which focus on the cultural integration of new arrivals.

In Orange, CA, this FOCUS program provides translation services for Vietnamese refugees and features representation for the refugee community into the larger community wide initiative.

In Pittsburgh, PA, PREP, PAIRS and Power of Two programs operate according to a strategic plan for multi-service implementation including enhanced case management, workshops, and after school teen sessions. Goals for a community initiative are identified, initiated and implemented.

In Richmond, VA, a Power of Two program trains designated individuals to work with refugee communities in Roanoke, Richmond and Hampton, VA. Orientation for new arrivals, workshops and outreach, and involvement with the larger community coalition are also featured.

GRANT RECIPIENT(S): The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

PROJECT PERIOD: April 6, 2004 to September 29, 2006

PROJECT FUNDING: \$1,000,000